ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!

HICKMAN
SCHITI
MARTIN

019

PREVIOUSLY IN NEW AVENGERS

ON AN ALTERNATE EARTH AN EVENT OCCURRED THAT CAUSED THE EARLY DEATH OF A UNIVERSE. THIS CAUSED A TINY CONTRACTION, SMASHING TWO UNIVERSES TOGETHER AT THE INCURSION POINT OF THE INITIAL EVENT, EARTH.

AFTER AN INCURSION EITHER BOTH EARTHS ARE DESTROYED OR ONE IS SACRIFICED, SPARING BOTH UNIVERSES.

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. YOU'RE GOING TO BUILD A MACHINE, SOME KIND OF WEAPON, YOU'LL CONVINCE YOURSELVES...

I WON'T ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN.

DAMMIT, CAP. WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BE THIS WAY? STEPHEN...MINDWIPE HIM.

TONY?

I REMEMBER.

"HAVE YOU NOTICED WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THANOS'S PRISON CUBE? WHAT WAS ONCE A LIVING DEATH...IS BECOMING LIFE."

BRUCE, I KNOW TONY DIDN'T BRING YOU IN WITHOUT EXPLAINING THE PROBLEM...

THESE ARE ANTIMATTER INJECTORS TO CAUSE A VIRTUALLY INSTANTANEOUS PLANETARY EXPLOSION...

BUT WHY SO MANY?

BLACK SWAN, YOU CAME FROM ANOTHER WORLD WITH A DEVICE, THEN DESTROYED THAT PLANET.

WHAT YOU CALL A MIRROR, I CALL A BRIDGE. I CAN BUILD IT. I'VE ACTUALLY BUILT ONE BEFORE.

WHAT YOU NEED IS A MIRROR TO OBSERVE ANY NUMBER OF INEVITABLE ADVERSARIES.

YOU UNDERSTAND. IF YOU USE THE MIRROR AND FOCUS YOUR NEEDS...

"...YOU CAN OBSERVE OTHER INCURSIONS AS THEY ARE OCCURRING."

"ARE WE LOOKING AT A PAST EVENT?"

"NO. WE'RE LOOKING AT THE FUTURE. TWO HOURS FROM NOW."

“WE ARE ALL MONSTERS NOW”

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THE ILLUMINATI

BLACK BOLT
Celestial Messiah

NAMOR
Imperius Rex

REED RICHARDS
Universal Builder

IRON MAN
Master of Machines

BEAST
Mutant Genius

DOCTOR STRANGE
Sorcerer Supreme

BLACK PANTHER
King of the Dead

HULK - BRUCE BANNER
Strongest There Is

BLACK SWAN
Incursion Survivor

MAXIMUS
Inhuman Madman

THE GREAT SOCIETY

BOUNDLESS

DR. SPECTRUM

SUN GOD

THE RIDER

THE JOVIAN

THE NORN

INCURSION
EARTH-616 : EARTH-4,290,001.

ANYTHING?

THERE.
I DON'T THINK IT'S BLACK PRIESTS OR SIDERA MARIS...I CAN'T MAKE OUT IF--
I SEE IT, BOUNDLESS...
AND IT'S NEITHER. MAYBE THERE'S A CHANCE FOR PEACE HERE...
RIDER, CAN YOU?
ON IT. THEY'RE HUMAN...OR MOSTLY HUMAN. IT'S AN EARTH, SO NO SURPRISE THERE.
BUT CERTAINLY NOT ANY IDENTIFIABLE AS FRIEND OR FOE.
DIVINATION?
THE NORN ISN'T IN ANY SHAPE TO--
NO. A LITTLE PREVENTION MIGHT SAVE US FROM A TERMINAL EVENT...
"WE HAVE TO KNOW, DOCTOR... ARE THEY GOOD OR EVIL?
"ARE THEY MEN...
"OR ARE THEY *MONSTERS?*"

THEN.

WHAT'S THIS, DOCTOR BANNER?

AN IDEA I GOT FROM THE BRAIN-DAMAGED HULK FROM ANOTHER EARTH...

HIS AVENGERS TEAMMATES COULD CONTROL HIM BY STIMULATING THE EMOTIONAL CENTERS OF HIS BRAIN. THEY BASICALLY CREATED A HULK OVERRIDE SYSTEM--CONTROLLING WHEN HE COULD BECOME THE HULK AND WHEN HE REMAINED BANNER.

A SLIGHT PINCH.

PFFTT!

OW.

ANYWAY... THIS IS MY VERSION OF THAT.

IT'S A LIMITED WORK-AROUND THAT I'LL USE SPARINGLY...

BUT IT GIVES ME SOME MANNER OF CONTROL OVER WHEN I CHANGE--AND, FOR LACK OF A BETTER TERM, IT ALLOWS ME TO *THROTTLE BACK* WHILE GREEN WITH RAGE.

WELL, PARDON ME FOR STATING THE OBVIOUS, BRUCE... BUT WHY THE LIMITATION?

IF IT WORKS, IT WORKS... NO?

WELL...IT WORKS BY FIRING ELECTRICITY INTO SOME RATHER DELICATE AREAS OF MY BRAIN, DR. McCOY. SO...

YOU'D RATHER NOT LOBOTOMIZE YOURSELF.

ESPECIALLY SINCE WE'RE HERE FIRST AND FOREMOST FOR THAT VERY THING.

IF YOU SAY SO...

I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER HOW TRUE THAT REALLY IS.

I'M NEW HERE, HANK.

NEBULOUS HINTS AT SECRET MOTIVATIONS JUST LEAVE ME WONDERING WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

WITH THE TWO OF US, THERE'S STILL ENOUGH BRAIN ACTIVITY IN OUR SECRET ORGANIZATION TO POWER A SMALL CITY.

ALL THESE QUESTIONS WE BRILLIANT MEN ARE ASKING...

WHAT IF THEY'RE NOT THE ***RIGHT*** QUESTIONS AT ALL?

GO ON...I'M LISTENING.

WHAT IF--IN THE END--THIS ISN'T AN EXERCISE IN SURVIVAL, BRUCE, BUT A QUESTION OF HUMANITY?

YOU TELL ME...

WHO HERE KNOWS BETTER THAN YOU AND I...***THE REALITY*** OF THAT STRUGGLE...

AND HOW EASILY THE HUMAN GIVES WAY TO SOMETHING ***LESS MORAL*** AND ***MORE PRIMAL.***

NOW.

LIVING IN A VIOLENT WORLD MAKES ONE QUESTION THE GOODNESS OF MAN. YET YOU CAME HERE, WITH YOUR ARMS WIDE OPEN...

TALKING *PEACE* WHILE THE SKY BLEEDS RED.

SEE? THERE *IS* HOPE.

STILL...

A PEACEFUL ARRIVAL UNDER A WHITE FLAG AND PASSING SOME MAGICAL RORSCHACH TEST ISN'T REALLY A GUARANTEE OF ANYTHING, IS IT?

HOW *CAN* WE REALLY TRUST YOU?

MORE IMPORTANTLY... HOW DO *YOU* KNOW TO TRUST *US?*

OH, WE'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU.

WHAT?

WE'VE BEEN *WATCHING* YOU.

SAYING IT AGAIN DOESN'T MAKE IT BETTER.

CREEP.

NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND... WE CONSTRUCTED A MACHINE THAT ENABLED US TO OBSERVE YOUR EARTH.

WE USED THIS MACHINE TO STUDY MULTIPLE EARTHS UNDERGOING INCURSIONS... SO WE USED IT TO STUDY YOU.

I THINK THEY GET IT, HENRY.

YOU HAVE SEEN THE END OF WORLDS?

TOO MANY TIMES.

AND YOU?

THREE.

THREE TIMES.

INTERESTING. WE WERE ONLY ABLE TO OBSERVE AND RECORD *TWO*.

YES. WHILE YOUR MAPMAKER SOLUTION WAS LESS THAN ELEGANT, THE OTHER INSTANCE WE OBSERVED WAS FASCINATING...

IN FACT, ALL OUR MODELS SEEMED TO IMPLY THAT WHAT YOU DID *WASN'T POSSIBLE*.

HOW DID YOU MOVE YOUR EARTH-- AND BY EXTENSION YOUR UNIVERSE-- OUT OF PHASE?

I USED A *WISHING BOX.*

WHAT IS--

WHOOMP!

IT'S AN ITEM OF GREAT POWER, A CUBE MADE UP OF SIX PLANES OF FOREVER GLASS.

BUT THAT IS LOST TO US NOW, AS THE BOX WAS DESTROYED IN THE PROCESS.

OH. I SEE.

YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU HAVE SEEN A WISHING BOX BEFORE?

A DIFFERENT MANIFESTATION OF IT. WE CALLED OURS A *GAUNTLET.* IT HAD INFINITY GEMS, NOT PLANES OF... FOREVER GLASS.

I SUPPOSE THERE'S SOME COMFORT IN KNOWING THAT WAS NEVER A LONG-TERM SOLUTION.

WHAT WAS THE THIRD?

WE DON'T TALK ABOUT THAT.

SO, THEORETICS ASIDE...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS INCURSION?

WHAT PLANS DO YOU HAVE?

WE HAVE NO PLANS--WHAT PLANS COULD ANYONE HAVE FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

DO YOU HAVE PLANS?

YOU KNOW WHAT...WHY DON'T WE TALK ABOUT OPTIONS INSTEAD OF WORSE-CASE SCENARIOS?

SEE IF WE CAN'T COME UP WITH SOMETHING IN THE TIME WE HAVE LEFT.

YOU DO HAVE A PLAN. YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO TELL US.

YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING...

YES. WE HAVE A PLAN.

IT'S AN ANTIMATTER DEVICE THAT WILL DESTROY A PLANET. WE HAVE A *BOMB*.

WE BUILT A BOMB THAT WILL DESTROY A WORLD.

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE?

I TOLD YOU ALREADY...

WE HAVE *HOPE*.

WELL...

I *HOPE* YOU CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING BETTER.

WAKANDA.
THE NECROPOLIS. EARTH-616.

"EVERYONE AROUND HERE IS CONCERNED ABOUT RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

"I SAY THE TICKING CLOCK MAKES US LESS WASTEFUL. I SAY THE CLOCK MAKES US BOLD."

I SAY IT'S TIME TO GET A LITTLE CRAZY.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, LITTLE BIRD?

I THINK, FOR A MAN OF ACTION, YOU TALK TOO MUCH, MAXIMUS.

YES, YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE. SO... FORWARD WITH THE EXPERIMENT.

THEY NEVER LET ME PLAY WITH THE GOOD TOYS...SO I HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL ALL THE COWBOYS ARE AWAY AT THE ROW-DEE-OH.

MICROSCOPIC DRILL-- WE DON'T WANT ANY PRYING EYES TO SEE THE HOLE...

BUT I'M DYING TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A LITTLE AIR REACHES THOSE REGROWING BONES OF *CORVUS GLAIVE*.

OH MY... HE DIDN'T DISAPPOINT, DID HE?

THEN.

WANT TO TELL ME WHAT THAT WAS ABOUT?

A MAN COMING TO THE END OF HIMSELF.

YOU *DO* KNOW THAT THERE'S NOTHING ABNORMAL ABOUT HOW HUMAN BEINGS RESPOND TO TRAUMA, DON'T YOU, SWAN?

THIS JUDGING PEOPLE FOR THEIR WEAKNESSES IN THE FACE OF TRAGEDY-- IT'S COUNTER TO EVERYTHING WE KNOW ABOUT HOW PEOPLE DEAL WITH PAIN.

ARE YOU SAYING THAT ANTHONY IS IN PAIN?

WE ALL ARE, INCLUDING YOU. YOU'VE JUST BEEN HURTING A LOT LONGER...AND IT'S MADE YOU MUCH, MUCH HARDER.

I'VE SAID IT BEFORE, AND I'LL SAY IT AGAIN...I CAN HELP YOU.

YOU KNOW I HAVE KNOWN OTHER YOUS...AND I HAVE HEARD THEM SAY SIMILAR THINGS...

AND?

I'VE LEARNED THIS IS HOW THE GREAT REED RICHARDS MANAGES *HIS PAIN*.

APPEALING TO THE HEART WHEN HIS INTELLECT HAS FAILED.

THIS.

THIS IS WHEN YOU NO LONGER INTEREST ME, REED...

BECAUSE YOU BECOME USELESS.

WAIT UP, TONY.

NOT NOW, REED.

HEY!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

WHAT HAPPENED TO *YOUR FACE?*

AND WHAT WAS THAT BACK THERE WITH THE ULTIMATUM AND THE COERCION ROUTINE? I'VE NEVER SEEN...WHAT I MEAN IS, THAT'S NOT HOW WE--

WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

WE'VE BEEN RUNNING OUT OF TIME SINCE THIS STARTED. I'M JUST AS TIRED AS YOU ARE, BUT--

CAP KNOWS.

HE REMEMBERED.

I SEE. AND THEN HE...

WAIT. WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?

YES.

WHAT *ABOUT* THE OTHERS?

ILIENT

THERE'S NO GOING BACK NOW.

AND GOING FORWARD...MY GOD, THE FULL WEIGHT OF THE ***MOST POWERFUL AVENGERS TEAM EVER ASSEMBLED*** IS GETTING READY TO COME CRASHING DOWN ON US.

SO THAT'S WHY, IN THERE, YOU WERE THREATENING TO DO WHAT YOU--

YEAH.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ANY MORE... DO YOU?

BEYOND OUR CONTINGENCIES--THE NIGHTMARE SCENARIOS THAT WE'RE MOVING TOWARDS? NO.

THE WORST PART IS THEY'LL BE RIGHTEOUS IN COMING AFTER US. WE'VE DONE TERRIBLE THINGS, ANTHONY.

AND THE WORST OF IT ALL...

WE ***CAN'T STOP***, CAN WE?

NOW.

SO WHAT WAS YOUR PLAN?

COME HERE? KILL US? BLOW UP OUR WORLD?

SOME OTHER SEDUCTIVE DANCE MEANT TO CATCH US UNAWARES?

WAYNE, I'M SURE THAT--

NO. WE NEED TO KNOW THIS. NOW.

ARE YOU HERE TO KILL OUR WORLD?

OF COURSE NOT.

OF COURSE NOT.

BECAUSE WE WANT TO BELIEVE WE'RE NOT ALL CAPABLE OF THE UNTHINKABLE.

NAMOR--DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD.

LISTEN. WE HAVE TIME.

NOT MUCH, BUT **SOME**...WHAT WE NEED TO FOCUS ON IS FIGURING OUT A WAY TO SAVE THE MOST PEOPLE.

YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE TRIAGE.

IT IS!

HONESTLY, WHAT ELSE *COULD* IT BE?

TWO UNIVERSES COLLIDING AT THE TOUCH POINT OF EARTHS--THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE THEM IS FOR ONE OF THOSE EARTHS TO BE DESTROYED...SAVING BOTH UNIVERSES.

AND A SINGLE EARTH.

ALL THAT REMAINS IS CHOOSING WHICH ONE. IT WOULD BE WRONG--IT WOULD BE *IMMORAL*--NOT TO MAKE A CHOICE.

IF YOU'RE ATTEMPTING TO CONSTRUCT AN ARGUMENT THAT MAKES YOU THE MOST MORAL MASS-MURDERER IN THE LONG HISTORY OF MASS-MURDERERS...CONGRATULATIONS. YOU'VE SUCCEEDED.

ARE YOU PROUD OF YOURSELF?

NORN...AN ASSESSMENT, PLEASE.

THERE ARE NO LIES HERE. ONLY REGRET.

THERE IS A SHADE OVER THESE MEN'S SOULS...BUT THAT HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE. HOWEVER, NOW THEY GRAVITATE TO THE NIGHT.

GREAT BUILDERS OF WEAPONS. MACHINES OF DESTRUCTION. WORDS OF POWER. SOUNDS OF FURY.

A STORM TO CONSUME US ALL...
SO YOU'RE PROPOSING WHAT, EXACTLY?
THAT WE WORK TOGETHER TO FIND SOME SOLUTION OVER THE NEXT HOUR, AND IF WE DO NOT FIND ONE, WE MOVE ON TO WORST-CASE SCENARIOS.
LET'S DO THAT.
NO. I WANT TO TALK ABOUT YOUR... ***WORST-CASE SCENARIOS.***
LET'S ASSUME WE FAIL. TELL ME WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN.
SOMETHING TERRIBLE.
BE MORE SPECIFIC.
IN ORDER TO SAVE BOTH UNIVERSES... AN EARTH HAS TO DIE. YOU KNOW THIS.
I DO... BUT WHICH EARTH?
I DON'T KNOW.
I THINK YOU DO...BUT EVEN IF YOU DON'T...
GIVE ME YOUR BEST GUESS.
DO YOU HAVE THE POWER TO DESTROY A PLANET?
NO. BUT YOU DO.
YES. WE DO.
BUT WE SHOULD BE--
NO! BECAUSE IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT...THERE'S ONLY ONE OF TWO OPTIONS: YOU KILL OUR EARTH...OR YOU KILL YOUR OWN.
SO YOU LISTEN TO ME! YOU'RE NOT KILLING OUR WORLD, NOT WHILE I STILL BREATHE...
NOT WHILE ANY OF US DO!

THUNK!

I'M TIRED OF WAITING FOR THE INEVITABLE.

IF I MUST BECOME THIS THING, THEN LET IT BE AT A TIME OF MY OWN CHOOSING.

WAYNE! WAYNE! ARE YOU...

STILL BREATHING. BUT YOU UNDERSTAND NOW, RIGHT?

THIS CAN'T END ANY OTHER WAY.

YES.

OH, GOD...

THIS IS IT.

NEW AVENGERS

ZILLA
M
P
R